

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the final Office Action issued September 24, 2004. The Examiner rejected claim 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,765 to Wieder (Wieder). The Examiner indicated that claims 14-25, 27, 28, 36, 37, and 40-55 were allowed, and that claims 6, 7, and 13 were allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In sections 1 to 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejected the claim for depending from a canceled claim. Claim 39 has been amended above per the Examiner's suggestion.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, of the claims are believed to be overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In sections 3 to 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-5, and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 in view of Wieder.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 6, which the Examiner has previously deemed allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 to the claims are believed to be overcome.

Allowable Subject Matter

In sections 5 to 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 14-25, 27, 28, 36, 37, and 40-55 were allowed, and that claims 6, 7, and 13 were allowable. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Additional Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP Deposit Account No. 19-5127 (order no. 20002.0009).

Conclusion

Claims 1 and 39 have been amended, and claim 6 has been canceled. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, 27, 28, 36, 37, and 39-55 are pending in the application. In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections of the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims. Should the Examiner feel further communication would help prosecution, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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